

WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND IS DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS

PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:

1. A network print system comprising:

a computer terminal having,

a processor,

a computer user interface, and

a computer display, said processor being configured to produce a print request message in response to information provided through said computer user interface, said print request message containing image data;

a printer communicatively coupled to said computer terminal, said printer having a printer user interface with a data input device and a data display device; and

a host computer communicatively coupled to said printer and said computer terminal and configured to receive said print request message, said host computer having

a memory in which said image data is stored, and

a host computer processor configured to produce a job number associated with said print request message and send said job number to said computer, wherein

said computer terminal being configured to display on said display an indication of said job number provided by said host computer,

said host processor being configured to recognize when said job number is input to said printer via said printer user interface and provide said image data to said printer for printing.

2. A network print system comprising:

a computer terminal having,

a processor,

a computer user interface configured to receive a password entered by a user,

and

5 a computer display, said processor being configured to produce a print request message containing image data and said password;

10 a printer communicatively coupled to said computer terminal, said printer having a printer user interface with a data input device and a data display device; and

15 a host computer communicatively coupled to said printer and said computer terminal, and configured to receive said print request message, said host computer having

a memory in which said image data and said password are stored, and

20 a host computer processor configured to produce a job number associated with said print request message, store said job number in said memory in association with said image data and password, and send said job number to said computer terminal, wherein

25 said computer terminal being configured to display on said display an indication of said job number provided by said host computer, and

30 said host processor being configured to recognize when said job number and password are input to said printer via said printer user interface and provide said image data to said printer for printing.

3. A network print system comprising:

a computer terminal having,

a processor,

a computer user interface, and
a computer display, said processor being configured to produce a print request message containing image data;

a printer coupled to said computer terminal, said printer having

a printer user interface with a data input device and a data display device, and

a printer memory configured to hold a user password,

a host computer coupled to said printer and said computer terminal, and configured to receive said print request message, said host computer having

a host computer memory in which said image data is stored, and

a host computer processor configured to produce a job number associated with said print request message, store said job number in said host computer memory in association with said image data, and send said job number to said computer terminal,

wherein

said computer terminal being configured to display on said display an indication of said job number provided by said host computer,

at least one of said host computer and said printer being configured to determine if an input data input through said printer user interface matches said job number and if so providing said image data to said printer,

said printer being configured to determine whether a password input via said printer user interface matches said password stored in said printer memory and if so printing a document corresponding to said image data.

4. A secure method for printing a document in a network print system, comprising the

~~steps of:~~

receiving an image data at a first network terminal;

producing a print request message at said first network terminal and sending said print request message and said image data to a second network terminal;

5 storing in memory said image data and an associated job number at said second network terminal;

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a17 sending a reply message to said first network terminal from said second network terminal, said reply message including said associated job number;

displaying said associated job number at said first network terminal;

inputting a local print request message at said second network terminal, said local request message having an input job number; and

comparing said input job number with said associated job number and printing from said second network terminal a document corresponding to said image data if said input job number matches said associated job number.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein:

the storing step includes storing said image data and said associated job number at a host computer, said second network terminal comprising said host computer and a printer;

the step of inputting the local print request message at the second network terminal includes inputting the input job number on the printer user interface; and

20 the comparing step includes comparing at the host interface the input job number with the associated job number.

6. The method of Claim 4, wherein:

said receiving step includes receiving a password;

the sending the image data step includes sending the password;

the storing step includes storing said password;

the step of inputting the local print request message includes inputting an input

5 password; and

the comparing step includes comparing the password with the input password and printing if said input password matches said password.

7. The method of Claim 4, further comprising:

storing an assigned password at the second network terminal;

inputting a local password at said second network terminal; and

comparing the local password with the assigned password, wherein

said step of printing from said second network terminal comprises printing said document only if said local password matches said assigned password.

8. A secure network print system, comprising:

means for receiving an image data at a first network terminal;

means for producing a print request message at said first network terminal and for sending said print request message and said image data to a second network terminal;

means for storing in memory said image data and an associated job number at said second network terminal;

20 means for sending a reply message to said first network terminal from said second network terminal, said reply message including said associated job number;

means for displaying said associated job number at said first network terminal;

means for inputting a local print request message at said second network terminal,
said local request message having an input job number; and

means for comparing said input job number with said associated job number and
printing from said second network terminal a document corresponding to said image data if

5 said input job number matches said associated job number.

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